

**BLS Program Standards Review Committee Meeting (ad-hoc)**  
**Richmond, Virginia**  
**February 1, 2006**  
**10:00 AM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>	<b>Others:</b>
Shaun Carpenter		Chad Blosser	Jenni-Meade Cochran
Tim McSherry		Warren Short	Heidi Hooker
Helen Nelson		Tom Nevetral	Dr. JoAnne LaPetina
Connie Purvis		Greg Neiman	
Pat Mercer		Gary Brown	
Dayton Haugh		Scott Winston	
Rodney Newton			
Roxann Gabany			
Ken Templeton			
Kathy Eubank			
Tom Jarman			
Preston Grubbs			

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Welcome</b>	Chad Blosser welcomed the committee.	
<b>II. Membership Introductions</b>	Chad asked all the members present to introduce themselves to the group.	
<b>III. Committee Charge</b>	Warren Short made a presentation which included an overview of Initiative 2009 and followed that with a discussion of the committee's charge.  Warren asked if there were any questions. None were asked.	
<b>IV. Initiative 2009</b>		
<b>V. Review of materials</b>	Chad discussed the materials which were provided to the committee members prior to the meeting. These documents included a draft of BLS Accreditation Standards developed by the Office of EMS and several other BLS accreditation documents which were shared with the Office by the State Maryland.	
<b>VI. Discussion</b>	Kathy was asked to chair the committee and accepted the position. She introduced herself to the committee, provided opening remarks and then delved into the work of the committee.  The committee discussed the materials distributed by the Office and tried to determine what the best approach would be in order to meet the committee's charge.	

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	<p>A discussion of accreditation, its benefits and whether BLS accreditation would be beneficial to the Commonwealth ensued. Highlights of this discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Connie Purvis asked if the Office is ready to go to accreditation for BLS programs. Warren said we would not know if the state was ready until we develop a pilot and implement it.</li> <li>■ Dayton Haugh indicated that people are concerned because the optional often becomes the mandatory. He indicated that the Office can do many of the things it desires without the need for accreditation. Dayton asked Warren what the goals of accreditation are? Warren indicated that the goal is to establish standards by which programs can be evaluated—to provide guidelines to programs in order to assist them in offering EMT programs.</li> <li>■ Tom Jarman asked the group to not look at the handouts as preconceived mandates and instead look at them as guidance documents which can be molded into a document that benefits VA. He also indicates that it would be short sighted of the committee to not consider national ideas and perspectives. There is a need to look at the bigger picture.</li> <li>■ Ken Templeton asked who can afford to fill out the documents? Are there going to be templates? Do you have to go through the community college to get this?</li> <li>■ Connie Purvis indicated that there must be enhancement of EMT-B training, however she is concerned that in the rural areas it will be next to impossible to meet the standards of accreditation. She wants to make sure that we don't forget the volunteers in this process.</li> <li>■ Pat Mercer indicated that she wants to make sure that whatever is developed meets the needs of the entire state and improves education.</li> <li>■ Rodney Newton indicated that the biggest issue that must be faced is the word accreditation. The group discussed the term “accreditation” and decided to forego its use instead using the term “educational standards”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. LaPetina indicated that accreditation is a bureaucratic process that stamps a program as good. If our real concern is timely response and adequate care, then we need to address the up front problems with BLS education. Once these problems are addressed, then it would be easy to accredit programs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Shaun Carpenter indicated that the committee should go ahead and establish BLS Educational Standards, let the program be piloted and then see what the outcomes are. He further indicated that there is a need across the Commonwealth to increase accountability in BLS programs.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>A lengthy discussion of the committee's charge followed. The Chair asked Warren what the purpose of the committee was? Warren indicated that it was to come up the educational standards needed to conduct EMT-B training and to develop a self study which would ensure that the educational standard set forth by the committee were being met by potential programs.</p> <p>Dayton Haugh suggested that the committee look at the following major areas as a jumping off point in order to get to the work of the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Students</b> – prereqs.</li> <li>▪ <b>Faculty</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Physical plant</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Equipment</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Curriculum</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Skills and competencies</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Testing</b> -</li> <li>▪ <b>Paperwork</b> –</li> </ul> <p>Roxann Gabany made a motion to “Make a list of current problems with BLS education and then take a look at solutions to these problems.” The motion was withdrawn since it was deemed inappropriate and out of the scope of the committee's charge by the Chair.</p> <p>The topic of the meeting jumped to ALS accreditation. After some discussion about the ALS accreditation process, the Chair adjourned the meeting for lunch with a prayer at 11:55AM.</p> <p>The meeting reconvened at 12:24 PM.</p> <p>A list was sent around to obtain up-to-date e-mail addresses for committee members.</p> <p>The Chair conducted other business to include setting the next meeting date for February 21, 2006. The meeting will either be held at The Place (pending availability) or at the VAVRS Office in Oilville. Chad will coordinate this and communicate meeting location with the committee at a later date.</p> <p>The Chair asked everyone to read the materials provided at this meeting in preparation for the next meeting. The Chair asked for members to send any proposals or other ‘accreditation’ related materials to Chad via e-mail by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. This will give Chad time to disseminate the materials via e-mail before the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked if there was any other business that needed to be conducted. Hearing none, the Chair adjourned the meeting.</p>	

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<b>VII. Assignments</b>		
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	There was no public comment.	
<b>OLD BUSINESS</b>	No old business.	
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	No new business.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	Kathy adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.	